



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, December 17, 2007

## Major Developments

### Wind Storm Knocks Out Power to Over 348,000 Customers throughout Mid-Atlantic December 16-17

The remnants of the winter storm, which left hundreds of thousands of people without power throughout the Central Plains, blew through the Mid-Atlantic region December 16 and 17, knocking out power to over 348,000 customers in the Mid-Atlantic region. Ice and wind have downed trees and power lines across the region and the high winds left scattered, sporadic pockets of affected areas posing challenges to many utility crews restoring power. Utility companies expect to restore power to many customers by the end of December 17, although it may take until late December 19 to restore power to all customers in the area, according to a PPL representative.

Mid-Atlantic Customer Power Outages December 16-17, 2007			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Pennsylvania Power & Light	Pennsylvania	133,161	31,275
MetEd	Pennsylvania	35,000	35,000
Allegheny	Pennsylvania	9,016	2,370
Exelon/Peco	Pennsylvania	10,000	3,800
Baltimore Gas & Electric	Maryland	69,940	2,280
PEPCO	Maryland	18,648	1,268
Allegheny	Maryland	18,571	6,152
Delmarva	Maryland	3,283	16
Dominion	Virginia	34,887	3,334
Rappahannock	Virginia	2,538	0
Allegheny	Virginia	10,498	3,370
NOVEC	Virginia	2,644	0
<b>Total*</b>		<b>348,186</b>	<b>88,865</b>

\*Total outages only represent electric utilities listed in this table.

Sources: [http://www1.pplweb.com/Maps/emergency\\_main.html](http://www1.pplweb.com/Maps/emergency_main.html)

[http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-a1\\_3storm.6187400dec17.0.2505258.story](http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-a1_3storm.6187400dec17.0.2505258.story)

[http://app.alleghenyenergy.com/outagestatus/customeroutagestatus/oms\\_summary\\_for\\_puc.asp](http://app.alleghenyenergy.com/outagestatus/customeroutagestatus/oms_summary_for_puc.asp)

<http://www.bge.com/portal/site/bge/menuitem.42d31413f80c584606370f10d66166a0/>

<http://www.pepco.com/home/emergency/maps/zip/>

[http://app.alleghenyenergy.com/outagestatus/customeroutagestatus/oms\\_summary\\_for\\_puc.asp](http://app.alleghenyenergy.com/outagestatus/customeroutagestatus/oms_summary_for_puc.asp)

<http://www.delmarva.com/home/emergency/maps/outage/>

[http://www.dom.com/news/outage\\_sos.jsp](http://www.dom.com/news/outage_sos.jsp)

<http://www.myrec.coop/outageandstormcenter/newoutage.shtml>

[http://app.alleghenyenergy.com/outagestatus/customeroutagestatus/oms\\_summary\\_for\\_puc.asp](http://app.alleghenyenergy.com/outagestatus/customeroutagestatus/oms_summary_for_puc.asp)

<http://www.novec.com/map/summary.cfm>

<http://www.pema.state.pa.us/pema/cwp/view.asp?a=7&q=278295>

<http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/111-12172007-1457520.html>

## Update: Over 115,000 Customers Remain without Power throughout Central Plains

Snowfall throughout December 15 – 16 hindered utility crews from restoring power to the remaining customers who had lost power due to ice storms, which began affecting the region December 9. As of 4:00 PM EST today, 142,778 customers remained without power.

Central Plains Customer Power Outages			
December 9-17, 2007			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
AEP/Public Service Co. of Oklahoma	Oklahoma	254,016	30,246
Oklahoma Gas & Electric	Oklahoma	302,275	69,820
OK Association of Electric Cooperatives	Oklahoma	73,420	5,762
Municipals	Oklahoma	15,000	3,900
AmerenUE	Missouri	44,441	201
Aquila	Missouri	67,506	1,488
Statewide Cooperatives	Missouri	47,000	1,200
Kansas City Power & Light	Kansas/Missouri	68,208	0
Empire District Electric	Kansas	58,600	4,000
Kansas Electric Cooperatives	Kansas	50,442	16,032
Westar	Kansas	84,123	8,824
Alliant	Iowa	43,000	333
MidAmerican	Iowa	23,576	864
Ameren	Illinois	17,198	106
Alliant	Wisconsin	13,042	2
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>1,161,874</b>	<b>142,778</b>

\*Total outages only represent electric utilities listed in this table.

Sources: <http://alliantenergy.com/docs/groups/public/documents/pub/p013332.hcsp>

<http://www.midamericanenergy.com/storm/OutageWatch/MECOutageWatch.aspx>

<https://www-11.westarenergy.com/outagemaps/outagetable.asp>

<http://www.kec.org/pages/Outage%20Report/update.htm>

<http://sema.dps.mo.gov/SitReps/Situation%20Reports.htm>

[http://www.ameren.com/Outage/ADC\\_MissouriOutageInformation.asp](http://www.ameren.com/Outage/ADC_MissouriOutageInformation.asp)

<http://www.aquila.com/eoc/mainoutage.do>

<https://www.empiredistrict.com/>

<http://www.amec.org/IceStormInfoCtr/AffectedSystems.html>

[http://www.ok.gov/OEM/Emergencies\\_&\\_Disasters/2007/Winter\\_Weather\\_Event\\_20071209\\_-\\_Master/](http://www.ok.gov/OEM/Emergencies_&_Disasters/2007/Winter_Weather_Event_20071209_-_Master/)

<http://www.psoklahoma.com/news/outages/viewstorm.asp?stormID=725>

<http://www.oge.com/systemwatch/>

[http://oaec.coop/Latest\\_News.php](http://oaec.coop/Latest_News.php)

## Electricity

### Duke's 222 MW South Bay Gas-fired Unit 4 in California Shut December 15

According to a filing with California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned outage on December 15.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200712151515.html>

### Dominion's 871 MW Millstone Nuke Unit 2 in Connecticut Reduced to 58 Percent December 17

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 100 percent on December 16.

Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2007/>

**Update: City of Vernon's 134 MW Malburg Gas-fired Unit in California at Full Power  
December 14**

According to a filing with California Independent System Operator, the unit returned to full power following an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200712141515.html>

**Update: TXU's 1,150 MW Comanche Peak Nuke Unit 1 in Texas at Full Power  
December 15**

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 70 percent on December 14. Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2007/>

**Update: Constellation's 1,120 MW Nine Mile Point Nuke Unit 2 in New York at Full Power  
December 16**

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 25 percent on December 15. Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2007/>

**Update: PSEG's 1,049 MW Hope Creek Nuke Unit 1 in Delaware at Full Power  
December 16**

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 88 percent on December 15. Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2007/>

**Update: Southern's 870 MW Hatch Nuke Unit 2 in Georgia Ramped Up to 98 Percent  
December 16**

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 85 percent on December 15. Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2007/>

**Update: FPL's 565 MW Duane Arnold Nuke Unit in Iowa Ramped Up to 98 Percent  
December 17**

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 69 percent on December 16. Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2007/>

**Update: Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuke Unit 1 in Mississippi Ramped Up to 97  
Percent  
December 17**

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 83 percent on December 16. Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2007/>

**Update: Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuke Unit 1 in Louisiana Ramped Up to 90  
Percent  
December 16**

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 67 percent on December 15. Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2007/>

**Update: Exelon's 1,111 MW La Salle Nuke Unit 1 in Illinois Ramped Up to 84 Percent  
December 17**

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 85 percent on December 15 and reduced to 73 percent on December 16.

Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2007/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2007/>

### **Update: NRG's 864 MW Limestone Coal-fired Unit 2 in Texas to Restart December 17**

The unit shut December 12 for work on a transformer under the generator and the generator exciter.

Reuters, 12:28 December 17, 2007

### **NRC Reports DTE Energy Mismanaged Damage Response at Fermi Nuclear Plant in Michigan**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission says DTE Energy mishandled the damage response, broke several federal rules and failed to follow its own emergency response plan when back in October the 1,217 MW nuclear unit 2 at the Fermi plant showed several holes throughout its steam lines. DTE says it is thoroughly evaluating all issues.

<http://detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071215/UPDATE/712150422/1361>

### **Xcel Energy Applies to State PSC to Build a New Power Line in North Dakota**

Xcel Energy has notified North Dakota's Public Service Commission of plans to build a new power transmission line in North Dakota. The proposed power line route is expected to be filed summer 2008.

<http://www.topix.net/content/cbs/2007/12/xcel-energy-applies-to-build-n-d-power-line>

### **Constellation Energy Signs Power Purchase Agreement with Conectiv for Proposed 545 MW of Power from New Combined-cycle Natural Gas Plant in Pennsylvania**

The combined cycle natural gas-fired facility, to be completed in 2011, will boost the region's power supply.

<http://ir.constellation.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=112182&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1087448&highlight=>

### **Solar Firm Ausra to Build Solar Panel Assembly Plant in Nevada**

With plans to build utility-scale solar plants in California and Florida, Ausra has started building an assembly plant in Las Vegas, Nevada. Ausra company representative said the manufacturing plant will make enough reflectors, towers, tubes and other solar components to create solar collectors capable of generating 700 megawatts of power.

<http://powermarketers.net/contentinc.net/newsreader.asp?ppa=8knpp%5E%5Chihimmt%5BTifw11rbfem%5Ev>

### **OPG's 494 MW Lambton Coal-fired Unit 2 in Ontario Shut December 14**

Reuters, 14:20 December 14, 2007

### **Update: OPG's 490 MW Nanticoke Coal-fired Unit 4 in Ontario Back in Service December 17**

Reuters, 09:43 December 17, 2007

### **Update: OPG's 490 MW Nanticoke Coal-fired Unit 1 in Ontario Back in Service December 17**

Reuters, 09:43 December 17, 2007

### **Update: Sempra's 625 MW Termoeléctrica De Mexicali Combined-cycle Unit in Mexico at Full Power December 14**

According to a filing with California Independent System Operator, the unit returned to full power following an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200712141515.html>

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Fire Damages Coker at Frontier's 52,000 b/d Cheyenne, Wyoming Refinery December 15**

A fire broke out at a coking unit late December 15, injuring two people and shutting the unit for approximately 30 days.

Reuters, 12:22 December 17, 2007

### **Equipment Failure Reported at Shell's 333,700 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery December 16**

According to a filing with state regulators, due to the failure of the level controller within the sulfur recovery unit (SRU), the SRU and the hydrotreater are running at reduced rates.

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/ee/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=101364>

### **Flaring Reported at ExxonMobil's 562,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery December 14**

According to a filing with state regulators, the wet gas compressor tripped offline resulting in flaring. The cause is still under investigation yet the compressor has been restarted and has returned to normal operations. There was no impact on production.

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/ee/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=101349>

### **Equipment Upset at Sunoco's 152,000 b/d Eagle Point, New Jersey Refinery December 17**

The upset, not an emergency event, caused the release of carbon monoxide into the atmosphere. A company representative was unavailable for comment.

Bloomberg News, 09:54 December 17, 2007

### **Chemical Release Reported at Valero's 182,200 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery December 16**

According to the state's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, "extremely hazardous" chemicals were released at the refinery. A company representative was unavailable for comment.

Bloomberg News, 12:08 December 16, 2007

### **FCC Unit Restarts at Citgo's 156,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery December 17**

The unit was shut following a snag in the compressor process. Citgo has since restarted the fluid catalytic cracker. Reuters, 12:22 December 17, 2007

### **Bengal Pipeline Company Seeks Commitments to Expand Capacity in Louisiana by 55,000 b/d**

Bengal Pipeline Co is seeking commitments from shippers for a proposed 55,000 barrel per day expansion to increase the line's capacity to 305,000 bpd. The 24-inch pipeline can carry 250,000 b/d of gasoline and distillates from refineries in Norco, Louisiana, to Colonial Pipeline storage tanks in Baton Rouge.

Reuters, 11:40 December 17, 2007

### **PDVSA's 300,000 b/d Cardon Refinery in Venezuela Operating at Reduced Rates December 14**

State oil company PDVSA's 300,000 barrels per day Cardon refinery is currently operating at minimal rates because four of its six steam boilers are out of service, leaving the facility without enough steam to keep units functioning.

Reuters, 14:18 December 14, 2007

### **Nigerian Rebel Bloc Implores Fighters to Unite, Cripple Oil Industry December 17**

Militant groups should abandon peace talks, join forces and destroy the Niger Delta's oil industry, a faction of the rebel group Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) said December 17.

Reuters, 12:20 December 17, 2007

## ***Natural Gas***

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### **NiSource Declares Force Majeure on Columbia Gulf Natural Gas Line after Explosion in Louisiana December 14**

An explosion in northern Louisiana shut a portion of the Columbia Gulf pipeline system late December 14.

NiSource declared a force majeure on Line 100 of its pipeline. Lines 200 and 300 were taken out of service for evaluation and "no gas is flowing through this portion of the pipeline system," the company website said. The explosion also resulted in the closure of Highway 20 for several hours on December 14.

[http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2007/12/17/updates/breaking\\_news/doc4766a1ca8de7a219707256.txt](http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2007/12/17/updates/breaking_news/doc4766a1ca8de7a219707256.txt)

Reuters, 18:44 December 14, 2007

### **State Regulators Reject Cabot's Proposal to Drill in Chief Logan State Park in West Virginia**

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection rejected natural gas producer Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation's proposal to drill as many as 35 new wells in a state park. State law prohibits the exploitation of minerals in any state park for commercial purposes.

<http://www.loganbanner.com/articles/2007/12/15/news/news02.txt>

## Rockies Express Pipeline Gains FERC Approval to Place Wamsutter Compressor Station into Service December 17

Rockies Express Pipeline (REX), after gaining FERC approval, plans to place into service today the Wamsutter Compressor station. Wamsutter is an integral part of the REX-Entrega Phase II system that ties in with the rest of the 1,700 mile REX pipeline in northern Colorado.

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

## CPV Files for Permits to Construct a 640 MW Clean Natural Gas Plant in Maryland December 17

Competitive Power Ventures (CPV) filed permit applications with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to construct a new natural gas power plant in Charles County. The 640 MW state-of-the-art facility, called CPV St. Charles, would help secure the region's supply of energy and be one of the cleanest natural gas plants licensed in Maryland. St. Charles is targeted to begin construction in early 2009 and be completed in 2011.

PRNewswire, 13:38 December 17, 2007

## Other News

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Nothing to report.

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 17, 2007			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	90.08	87.71	63.40
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	7.06	6.98	6.82

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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### President Bush Today Called on U.S. to Build More Domestic Oil Refineries

<http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2007/12/17/afx4448211.html>

### Computer Tech Pleads Guilty to Tampering with California's Power Grid in April 2007

[http://www.news10.net/display\\_story.aspx?storyid=36320](http://www.news10.net/display_story.aspx?storyid=36320)

### NorthernStar's Proposed Bradwood Landing LNG Receiving Terminal in Oregon Gains Rezoning Permit From County Commissioners December 17

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

### Compressor Shut at 135 MMcf/d Salt Creek Gas Processing Plant in Texas December 16

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/eer/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=101363>

### Amine Treating System Caused Upset at Waha Gas Plant in Texas December 15

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/eer/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=101354>



## Multiple Units Reported Down Due to High Discharge Pressure at the Boyd Compressor Station in Texas December 14

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/eer/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=101352>

## Unplanned Emergency Power Loss Caused Excess Opacity Event at Prism's Waskom Gas Processing Plant in Texas December 15

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/eer/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=101360>

## Texas is Going Nuclear – Eight Nuclear Units Currently Planned - with Greenpeace Founder Support

Bloomberg News, 14:08 December 17, 2007

## Venezuelan PDVSA and Brazilian Petrobras Plan Together to Build and Operate a Proposed 200,000 b/d Abreu e Lima Refinery in Northeast Brazil

[http://www.energyintel.com/PublicationHomePage.asp?publication\\_id=5](http://www.energyintel.com/PublicationHomePage.asp?publication_id=5)

## Links

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### *This Week in Petroleum* from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

### *Weekly Petroleum Status Report* from EIA

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil\\_gas/petroleum/data\\_publications/weekly\\_petroleum\\_status\\_report/wpsr.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html)

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

### *Natural Gas Weekly Update* from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

## ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/index.aspx>.

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